

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

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TAGS: PFOR, BR, GT, SP, UY, CI

SUBJECT: FOREIGN GUESTS FOR CHILEAN HOLIDAYS

1. SUMMARY: URUGUAY SUPPLIED A PRESIDENT, GUATEMALA A VICE PRESIDENT, AND SPAIN AND BRAZIL MILITARY CHIEFS OF STAFF, FOR THE CHILEAN NATIONAL HOLIDAYS OF SEPTEMBER 11 (ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY COUP OF 1973) AND SEPTEMBER 18-19, THE TRADITIONAL CELEBRATION OF CHILE'S INDEPENDENCE. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR SUCH VISITS WERE FOLLOWED, AND THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS. FROM GOC POINT OF VIEW VISITS DEMONSTRATED SUCCESS OF POLICY OF SPECIAL CULTIVATION OF RELATIONS WITH SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS AND WITH SUBSTITUTE ARMS SUPPLIERS ABROAD. END SUMMARY

2. URUGUAY: PRESIDENT BORDABERRY ARRIVED SEPT 17 FOR FIVE DAYS AS FEATURED GUEST FOR NATIONAL HOLIDAYS AND PLUNGED INTO ROUND OF CEREMONIES WHICH INCLUDED ECUMENICAL MASS, MILITARY PARADE, AND OPENING OF RENOVATED GAMBLING CASINO IN VINA DEL MAR. IN
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JOINT STATEMENT WITH PRES. PINOCHET, BORDABERRY CONDEMNED TERRORISM

AND VIOLENCE, AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR MODERNIZATION AND INTEGRATION UNDER LAFTA. THE TWO PRESIDENTS SIGNED AGREEMENTS ON ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. BORDABERRY INVITED PINOCHET TO VISIT URUGUAY IN MID-DECEMBER. PRESS GAVE VISIT POLITE, ROUTINE COVERAGE.

3. SPAIN/BRAZIL: SPAIN SENT A MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY GEN. EMILIO VILLAESCUSA, AND BRAZIL A SIMILAR GROUP HEADED BY GEN. ANTONIO CORREA. BOTH DELEGATIONS MADE APPROPRIATE CALLS AND EXCHANGED MEDALS WITH CHILEANS, AND RECEIVED MODERATE PRESS ATTENTION.

4. GUATEMALA: VICE PRES. MARIO SANDOVAL ALARCON ARRIVED SEPT 8 FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT DURING CELEBRATION OF SEPT 11 COUP ANNIVERSARY, DEPARTING BEFORE OTHER GUESTS ARRIVED FOR TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS. ADMIRAL MERINO, NUMBER TWO IN THE JUNTA BY SENIORITY, ACTED AS SANDOVAL'S HOST. SANDOVAL ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD COME TO CHILE BECAUSE "...I WANTED TO KNOW THOSE WHO SAVED CHILE FROM MARXISM." VISIT WAS ROUTINE AND PRESS BURIED STORY.

5. COMMENT: VISITS FOLLOWED NORMAL PATTERN FOR SUCH EXCHANGES ON NATIONAL HOLIDAYS WITH NOTHING TO OUR KNOWLEDGE OUT OF THE ORDINARY. CHOICE OF GUESTS ILLUSTRATED GOC FOREIGN POLICY EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CORDIAL TIES WITH NEIGHBORS IN SOUTHERN CONE (GUEST OF HONOR LAST YEAR WAS PRES. STROESSNER FROM PARAGUAY), AND TO DEVELOP CLOSEST TIES POSSIBLE WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS SPAIN AND BRAZIL, WHICH HAVE SIMILAR POLITICAL VIEWS AND ARE SOURCES OF AT LEAST SOME MILITARY ASSISTANCE IN FACE OF ALMOST TOTAL BOYCOTT OF CHILE BY MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS.
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